

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ACDA-07 SSM-03 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 TRSE-00
OMB-01 AID-05 IGA-02 MC-02 /111 W
-----041321Z 072119 /41

R 011230Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1394
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2096

1.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, YE, UR, SO
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER ON SOMALIA

1. DURING MAY 28 CALL FOREIGN MINISTER ABDALLAH AL-ASNAJ COMMENTED THAT SOMALIA CONTINUES TO OFFER BEST OPPORTUNITY FOR ARAB MODERATES UNDER LEADERSHIP OF SAUDIS TO BRING ABOUT FURTHER REDUCTION OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN RED SEA REGION. AL-ASNAJ NOTED IN THIS REGARD THAT ONE MAIN PURPOSE OF TAIZ MEETING WAS TO SOW DOUBT AND SUSPICION BETWEEN THE SOVIETS AND PDRY ON ONE HAND AND SOMALIS ON THE OTHER AND THAT THIS PURPOSE HAD BEEN REALIZED. AL-ASNAJ ALSO OBSERVED THAT FORMER ARE MOTIVATED BY IDEOLOGY, PARTICULARLY PDRY, WHILE SOMALIA IS MOVED BY AND LARGE BY NATIONALIST EMOTIONS AND ASPIRATIONS. AL-ASNAJ CONTINUED THAT IT WAS THIS OPENING PROVIDED BY
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SOMALI NATIONALISM THAT HE HOPED THE SAUDIS WOULD CONTINUE TO EXPLOIT.

2. AL-ASNAJ POINTED OUT THAT AT THE SAME TIME, HOWEVER, SIAD BARRE WILL NOT MOVE RAPIDLY OR DARAMATICALLY UNLESS HE IS SURE OF FULL SUPPORT FROM THE SAUDIS AND FROM THE WEST, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARDS TO THE SUPPLY OF ARMS.

AL-ASNAJ NOTED THAT PRESIDENT NUMAYRI WAS RECENTLY GIVEN SAUDI CARTE BLANCHE TO PURCHASE ARMS IN WEST AS REQARD FOR THROWING OUT SOVIET MILITARY ADVISORS AND HE HOPED THE SAUDIS WILL DO THE SAME THING FOR SIAD BARRE. AL-ASNAJ OPINED THA SOMALIA LIKE SUDAN COULD OBTAIN ARMS IN COUNTRIES LIKE FRANCE IF US UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO REPLACE SOVIETS.

3. AL-ASNAJ CONCLUDED THAT SAUDIS AND OHTER REGIONAL MODERATES WILL HAVE TO CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS WITH SOMALIS BUT HE ALSO EXPRESSED HOPE USG WILL SUPPORT THESE EFFORTS EVEN IF IN A SYMBOLIC FASHION.

4. COMMENT: YEMENIS ARE SURPRISINGLY KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT SOMALI DEVELOPMENTS WHICH ARE FOLLOWED CLOSELY IN SANA. AL-ASNAJ IN PARTICULAR TRIES TO KEEP ON TOP OF THESE MATTERS. HE HAS GENERALLY BEEN UP-BEAT IN DISCUSSING OPPORTUNITIES IN SOMALIA FOR ARAB MODERATES BUT ALSO REALISTIC THAT IT WILL BE A DIFFICULT TASK. COMMENTING ON A RECENT REPORT FROM THE YEMENI AMBASSADOR IN MOGA-DISCIO SEVERAL DAYS AGO THAT SOVIET/SOMALI RELATIONSHIP HAD REACHED POINT OF NO RETURN, AL-ASNAJ STATED THAT HIS AMBASSADOR WAS EITHER NAIVE OR STUPID BECAUSE IN HIS OPINION NEITHER SOVIETS NOR THEIR SOMALI FRIENDS WILL EASILY GIVE UP A MAJOR POLITICAL AND MILITARY INVESTMENT GOING BACK SO MANY YEARS.
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Sent Date: 01-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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